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C. Stafe

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Jean OLLIVIER

Serial No.: 09/400,994

Filed: September 21, 1999



Group Art Unit: 1624

Examiner: B. Kifle

For: **PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF LACTAMS FROM THE
CORRESPONDING CYCLOALKANONE OXIMES**

AMENDMENT AND REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed April 10, 2000, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below, and consider the remarks that follow.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims:

B' -- 16. A process according to claim 1, wherein the methanesulphonic acid is of a strength by weight of between 95 and 99%.

17. A process according claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of between 140 and 160°C.

18. A process according to claim 1, wherein the residence time is from 2-60 minutes.

19. A process according to claim 1, wherein the residence time is from 15-30 minutes.--

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